THE Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *Great Britain*, *America*, &c.

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Extracts from Mr. Robe's *Christian Monthly History*, Numb. II.

Short ADVICES.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman of undoubted Credit, and good Intelligence in Holland, *to his Friend in* North Britain.

29th October 1743. *O. S.*

"I Expected e're now to have had from you the Continuation of *Kilsyth* Narrative. 'Tis much long'd for, it will be satisfying to you, and all the Friends of the Lord's Work at present going on in *Scotland*, to know, that religious People here, who are free of the woful peculiar Prejudices abounding among you, esteem that Work as truly Divine, being entirely agreeable to the Scripture Account of Conversion. --- You may form a Judgment of the high Value they put upon it by this; that three Impressions of the *Cambuslang* short Narrative are already sold off, and two of the *Kilsyth*; so that the Printers are now busy with a third."--- The Reverend Mr. *Kennedy* Minister of the *Scots* Congregation at *Rotterdam*, *who caused translate these* Narratives *into* Dutch, *and wrote a* Preface *to each of them*, "dined at the *Hague* lately, with "the Deputies of the two Synods of South and North *Holland*, from whom he received the most affectionate "Thanks, for the Share he had taken in communicating "that Work to the Publick, and one of the most eminent "Ministers of *Utrecht* made him a Visit for that purpose.

--- It is likewise reprinted in that City. --- "Some of the "Ministers of *Dort*, *Utrecht*, and several other Places, did "from their Pulpits, warmly recommend it, to be perused "by all Families.--- And I am certainly informed, by many "excellent Persons, That the Lord has made it a Mean of "quickening, inlightning and Consolation to many."

How much may this put us the Ministers of the Word in this Church, to the Blush, who have entertained this more than ordinary Visit *of the Day Spring from on high*, in a cool or indifferent Manner, tho' we have been Witnesses to it, or might, if we had pleased. That the Lord's Servants and People in the *United Provinces*, entertain the glad Tidings with Acknowledgements and Praise, and shall we who are the more immediate Subjects, disown or deny the Blessing, or let it pass in a silent and regardless Manner? He who can cause the Stones to cry out and Praise him, when he comes with Salvation, to the Daughter of *Zion*, will not want some to Praise him, tho' we should be silent. --- 'Tis hoped this Zeal will excite all the Ministers of this Church, who are not leavened with Errors contrary to the Gospel, to attend more carefully to the wondrous Works of God, which declare his Name to be near.

Advices from Ross.

By a Letter from a Reverend Minister in the Synod of *Ross*, dated *August* 18, 1743, I am informed of the State of Religion there, and some Degree of Revival as followeth. "With Respect to the State of Religion in the North, we "cannot say, that there are such extraordinary Out-pour-"ings of the Spirit, as many of your Congregations in the "West, have been blessed with; yet, there is Matter of "Thankfulness, that in many Congregations among us, "the Lord is doing Good to many Souls by a preached "Gospel. For besides the more than ordinary Revivings, "that advanced Christians find now by the Ordinances, "many are dealt with savingly, in the ordinary calm and "sedate Way. And tho' no outward Emotions appear, yet, "the Fruits of their Concern are, sensible and lively Con-"victions of Sin, and a full Persuasion of the absolute Ne-"cessity of an Interest in the Redeemer's Merits and Righ-"teousness, as the only Way to Salvation. --- And, blessed

"be

" be the Lord, Scores in ſundry Pariſhes have thus been dealt " with, within theſe ſeventeen or eighteen Months paſt.

By a Letter from the Reverend Mr. *Haly*, Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Muthel*, I have the following Information relating to the Synod of *Roſs*.— " I had lately Occaſion to " ſee a Letter, from an honeſt Miniſter in the Synod of " *Roſs*, bearing ſome very agreeable Accounts of the Succeſs of the Goſpel in theſe Parts, particularly in the Pariſh " of *Nigg*, where, at the Sacrament laſt Summer, eighteen " new Communicants were admitted. I am informed, that " it is much the Cuſtom thro' that Synod, to admit none to " the Lord's Table, till they be in a Condition to give ſome " ſatisfying Account of their Experiences in Religion. As " alſo in the Pariſhes of *Roſiheen*, *Nairn* and *Roſsmarky*, God " is giving ſome Teſtimony to the Word of his Grace, tho' " not accompanied with ſuch obſervable Awakenings, as has " been obſerved in other Corners of the Land."--- Mr. *Haly*'s Letter is of the Date *November* laſt 28th.

State of Religion at MUTHEL, CRIEF, MONYVARD, *and* AUCHTERARDER.

By foreſaid Letter, Mr. *Haly* gives the preſent State of Religion at *Muthel*, and other Pariſhes in its Neighbourhood, as followeth.--- " Tho' the publick Awakenings are much " ceaſed with us, which I never expected would long continue, I hope theſe wrought upon in this Congregation " are perſevering, and bringing forth agreeable Fruits. Our " praying Societies are in a flouriſhing Condition: And it " is very agreeable to ſee the young Lambs gathering together again, after they were a little ſcattered in the Summer by the Herdings. Some of them keep their Meetings twice every Week. The Hungry-like Attention to " the Word preached ſtill continues in the Congregation. " The Ordinances are moſt punctually attended, tho' the " Pariſh be very large, and the Roads bad. And tho' ſome " of them have three, ſome four, and others five Miles to " travel home thro' a dark Muir; yet few go away from " the Evening Exerciſes. I hope there are ſome promiſing " Appearances in ſome neighbouring Pariſhes. In *Crief* " there are eight praying Meetings; in *Monyvard* four;

" and in *Auchterarder* ſix. None were in any of theſe Pa-
" riſhes till of late. Glory to our gracious God, who in
" many Places, is ſeeing our Ways, and healing them."

Among other Confirmations of the Reality of the Revival in different Corners, I have credible Information, that the Number of Communicants this laſt Seaſon, in divers Congregations, compared with the uſual Number, for a Tract of Years preceeding the late Revival, affords a conſiderable Evidence of an Increaſe of Seriouſneſs about Religion, partly in theſe Congregations themſelves, partly in the Places adjacent to them.---Whereas, in Places where the Sacrament is adminiſtred in the Summer-Seaſon, the Variation of the Numbers of Communicants in different Years, may oft-times be accounted for, by there being a greater or ſmaller Number of ſuch ſolemn Occaſions, in the Neighbourhood of theſe Places about the ſame Time. The Caſe is different, as to the Places which have that ſacred Solemnity in the Spring, or near Winter, as in ſeveral of our populous Towns.

Upon the 23d of *October* laſt, the Lord's Supper was given at *Edinburgh*, *Glaſgow*, *Irvine*, and, as I have heard likewiſe at *Aberdeen*. The Evidences of the Revival of Religion in and about theſe three firſt Cities, from Appearances at this ſolemn Time, are ſuch as theſe,

EDINBURGH.

The Number of their Communicants, in the ſeveral Churches of this great City, are within theſe two Years much increaſed.---And tho' ſeveral uſual Communicants have gone away with the Seceſſion, yet the Number of the Communicants are ſo far from being leſſened, that they are conſiderably increaſed, beyond what they were before the Seceſſion.---- Week-Days Sermons are much better attended than they have been for many Years paſt..--While I was in Town, about that Time, I viſited ſeveral of the Societies for Prayer, conſiſting of young People, with whom I was much pleaſed. They appear to thirſt ſtrongly after Inſtruction, and to be pliable and teachable to a great Degree ; they no doubt need much the Overſight and frequent Direction of their ſpiritual Guides, and elder Chriſtians. And I am perſwaded, that by the Lord's Bleſſing upon ſuch Overſight and Direction, which doubtleſs will not be wanting, many of them ſhall be a Seed to do Service to the Lord, and ſhall be reckoned to him

him a Generation.--- By all that I could ſee or hear, I am of Opinion, That the Succeſs of the Goſpel, by Out-pouring of the holy Spirit at *Edinburgh*, upon many of the young, and of the inferior Sort, hath been extraordinary, when compared with a former dead Time, of not a few Years. Bleſſed be the Lord, there are alſo not a few of a ſuperior Rank, who can witneſs the Out-pouring of the holy Spirit, in his ſaving Operations of all Sorts.

Glasgow.

At *Glaſgow*, in *October* laſt, the Increaſe of the Number of Tables, when the Lord's Supper was given there, is computed by Perſons fit to give a juſt Account of that Matter, to amount to about 18 Tables, beyond what was uſual for a Courſe of Years before the lateRevival: And it is computed that almoſt in all the Churches there, three Tables may contain about, or near 200 Communicants. --- This Increaſe is indeed ſuppoſed to be owing, in ſome Meaſure, to Numbers from the adjacent Country, and ſo to be a Confirmation of the Revival there; but alſo owing, in a good Meaſure, to a more than ordinary Addition, of late Years, to the Numbers of new Communicants in the Town itſelf.---The Matter is the more remarkable, That as to thePeople in the neighbouring Country, it is no ſmall Diſcouragement to their coming in to the Town on ſuch Occaſions, that they have ſuchDifficulty to get Seats there in the Churches, and that there are no Sermons there, on theſe Occaſions in the Fields. --- But that which makes ſuch an Increaſe of the Number of Communicants, both there and elſewhere, ſtill remarkable is, That, as hath already been obſerved, as to *Edinburgh*, ſeveral old Communicants having, of late Years, gone off to the Seceſſion, the Number of the Communicants now behoved to be leſs than in former Times, were it not for an extraordinary Increaſe another Way.--- There was a more than ordinary Concern to be obſerved upon many, both in hearing the Word and receiving the Sacrament: And ſeveral are ſaid to have felt Effects of more than an ordinary Preſence of the Lord's Grace and Spirit.

Irvine.

Irvine.

As to *Irvine*, by a Letter from a worthy Miniſter, who aſſiſted at the giving the Lord's Supper there, at the Time mentioned, the Number of Communicants was much the ſame, as when it was laſt given, but about 2 or 300 more than in former Times, which is reckoned betwixt a fourth and a fifth Part increaſed beyond former Years. He ſays further, That the Work was managed with much Decency, and he hopes many got a Bleſſing.

Coldinghame.

From the Pariſh of *Coldinghame* in the *Merſe*, near *Berwick*, a worthy Correſpondent writes me in a Letter I received this Month of *December*, That there are theſe promiſing Evidences of the Out-pouring of the holy Spirit there, beyond what hath been for ſeveral Years paſt, *viz.* a more diligent Attendance upon Ordinances, --- a more earneſt thirſting after them,--- a more general warm Impreſſion of Religion, and a greater Love to religious Diſcourſe.---Societies for Prayer not only increaſing in Numbers; but the Members of ſome of theſe Societies ſo increaſing, as the Meeting of which my Correſpondent is a Member, expect, in a ſhort Time, to divide themſelves into two ſufficient ones; and, what is moſt of all to be regarded, the Members of theſe Societies grow in Light and Life :--- So that ſome of the elder Chriſtians ſay, that they never had ſuch Comfort and Satisfaction as they have now.---Their worthy Miniſter Mr. *Brydon*, is earneſtly diligent in improving this Beginning of a more than ordinary *acceptable Year of the Lord*, and *Day of Salvation*, wherein may *the Lord of the Harveſt* aſſiſt and proſper him.--- I have Letters from other Perſons confirming what is above.

Muthel.

From *Muthel* a Letter of the Beginning of this *January* 1744, is come to my Hand from my dear and worthy Brother Mr. *Haly*.--- I ſhall give what moves me much in his own Words, to excite others of the holy Miniſtry to imitate his Diligence.--- "I am exceedingly delighted to ſee ſuch "Crowds of People attending Diets of Examination this "Winter, ſo great as would fill an ordinary Country Church. "The like has not been ſeen here before, which gives me ſome

" ſome Ground to think, that the Lord has more Souls in " thisPlace to be brought in. The Increaſe of Knowledge " is obſervable, eſpecially amongſt the young Ones ; many " of them give me great Pleaſure andSatisfaction.---Finding " ſuch an Edge upon the young People, I examined them " twice laſt Winter, once with the reſt of the Congrega- " tion, and afterwards by themſelves : When great Com- " panies of the elder Sort conveened to hear the dear young " Lambs give an Account of theirAdvances in Knowledge. " I intend to do the ſame this Winter.--- I hope the Lord is " raiſing up a Seed to ſerve him, when the Carcaſſes of o- " thers muſt fall in the Wilderneſs, and come ſhort of the " promiſed Land."

To the preceeding Accounts from Scotland *we ſhall only at preſent add ſome Extracts from private Letters of a later Date than the printed Accounts.*

From the Reverend Mr. *John Hamilton* to the Reverend Mr. *Prince.*

Rev. and dear Sir,

Glaſgow March 30. 1744.

---"THE State of Religion in our Country is much the ſame as when I wrote you laſt.---The ſtrong ſenſible Awakenings are in a great Meaſure ceaſed ; and indeed it could not be expected they ſhould continue long : But the Effects of them with great Numbers, I hope, will never ceaſe.---There are ſtill many Inſtances of Perſons awaken'd and hopefully converted in a more ſilent Way. The Ordinances continue to be more frequented than formerly ; a more cloſe Attention to the preaching of the Word, and greater Power accompanying it, and eſpecially Sacrament Occaſions have of late been remarkably bleſſed for the quickning and Comfort of ſincere Chriſtians. Our Societies for Prayer and Conference are likewiſe in a flouriſhing Condition in many Parts.---

From

From the Reverend Mr. *McLaurin* to the Reverend Mr. *Prince*.

Glaſgow, *April* 6. 1744.

"AS to the State of Religion here I muſt refer you chiefly to Mr. *Robe's* Monthly Chriſtian Hiſtory.

We have it to lament, that in ſeveral Places where the Revival once flouriſhed moſt, it ſeems for ſome good Time paſt to make much leſs Progreſs; I mean as to *diſcernable new Awakenings*. And tho' from the Beginning we knew we were to lay our Accounts with Backſlidings; yet when ſuch Things fall out, ſome well diſpoſed People ſeem ſurpriz'd and diſcouraged, as if no ſuch Things were to be expected.

Mean Time, it is great Ground of Praiſe that ſo goodly Numbers of thoſe who gave the probable Evidences of their having cloſed with Chriſt ſeem to perſevere: The viſible Appearance of more general Concern and Seriouſneſs about Religion, that attended the Revival when the Awakenings were more frequent, ſeems ſtill to continue: From Time to Time there are Inſtances of Perſons awakened in that Manner, as I may ſay forces them to communicate their Caſe.

About two Years ago I had Accounts from the Miniſter of *Biggar* of a ſecret Revival there, that has begun and gone on in ſo calm and ſilent a Manner, that one needed not wonder that ſome in thoſe Parts ſhould ſay they know nothing of it.

I have lately been favour'd with Copies of Letters from Subjects of that Revival to their Miniſter, which ſeem to have an uncommon Savour of ſerious Piety.

Mr. *Robe* has lately got refreſhing Accounts of the Revival far North in *Roſs-ſhire*; which began in a ſecret Way ſeveral Years ago, but was not heard of here, that I know of, till after the Revival in our Neighbourhood. An eminently worthy Miniſter in theſe Parts, one Mr. *Ballfour*, tells of his own Pariſh, that for ſeveral Years the civil Magiſtrate has had no Crime to puniſh there, that every Family except about three or four worſhip God, and that the Seſſion (or Conſiſtory) have little elſe to do at their Meetings but concert Meaſures for promoting the Intereſt of Piety."